

Freedom News

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Freedom
Party
Telephone
Hotline:
01902
892 769

Hobson's choice!

HOBSON'S CHOICE – that just about sums up the options facing the British electorate today. Just take a look at the “three main parties”, and what do you see?

Take Labour – traditionally the party of public services and the working man. We doubt if a single member of Tony's inner circle has used a bus or train in the last five years, or has worked at anything more strenuous than shuffling pieces of paper in some left-of-centre “think tank”. As *Mail* journalist Quentin Letts recently put it, there is something decidedly unconvincing about a Government of “favour-swapping millionaires” talking (with lump in throat) about the “poor and disadvantaged”.

But what about the Tories?

Here is a party that has given up any pretence of being a conservative movement. At their last conference, they were treated to a speech by their Chairman (sorry, Chairperson) Mrs Theresa May which sounded as though it could have come from Ken Livingstone's GLC handbook. According to Mrs May “if you're black or white, gay or straight, rich or poor, the Conservative Party is for you”. Well, that may be so, but it doesn't really explain why they can barely gain three thousand votes in a multi-ethnic area, even when fielding a much-publicised minority woman candidate. The Tories claim to be interested only in “individuals”, yet they make the classic mistake of seeing all ethnic minorities as “black”, and all homosexual people as belonging to the “gay community” – something which is bound to lead to charges of tokenism. Europe? Asylum? The misuse of the NHS? The collapse in law and order? Forget it! The Tories are now more “new Labour” than New Labour itself!

Finally, the Lib Dems. Yes, like the Freedom Party they are active in local government and are pragmatic people who like to get things done. Unlike the Tories, they have lots of active local folk, who genuinely put ordinary people and their services first. Unfortunately, the shop window is deceptive, for at a national level, the Lib Dems are a Euro-fanatical party in favour of unsustainable mass-immigration, with many of its members wanting to abolish the monarchy – or in the case of their leading light, Sir Menzies Campbell, “down-sizing” it. Quite how “Sir”

Menzies can be so disrespectful to the Queen, we don't know. (Perhaps she should ask for her knighthood back!)

All three of these once formidable parties formerly had something good about them. The Tories once stood for the nation – with men such as Disraeli talking about

“the Empire of England”. They also pioneered much social reform, and could be relied upon to defend the national interest, even as recently as 1982. Certainly, the Falklands was their finest hour. Labour, too, had a streak of greatness. Their vision of a new Jerusalem, in which men had work and children were lifted out of the slums was fine stuff. Yet today, they stand for nothing – except rich pickings for their leading supporters, and the preservation of a little club of their own at Westminster – a parliament now virtually stripped of all power.

Perhaps the nation could do with a new party – one which combines a burning desire to reform and restore our failing public services, as well as to maintain our self-government and identity as a country? The public

does not want to hear about “gay rights”, or “key performance indicators” on the economy – or be presented with any more meaningless statistics about “decreasing crime figures”. We all know that we are being fed a load of froth, slogans and claptrap.

We need a new spirit in Britain – community and neighbourliness for a start, and yes – tolerance – but tolerance that is not all one way. A sense – not of “authoritarianism” – but of authority and tradition, essential especially in this age of loutishness and crime. We need bobbies on the beat; we need litter to be cleared up; we need clean trains and buses that run on time; we need councillors, officials and politicians that can be trusted; we need open government – not Blairite cover-ups or Tory feuds.

The public is sick of the way modern Britain is going, and we want our country back. Time for a new party in Britain – time for THE FREEDOM PARTY!



Theresa May
(or possibly
Ken Livingstone)

SUCCESSFUL WOLVERHAMPTON AGM & RALLY

Party council, grass-roots members and allied groups unite at “rally for Britain”



Left: Derek Turner, editor of *Right Now!* magazine is a welcome guest speaker at the Freedom Party rally



Right: Dave Ball (Chairman of Market Harborough Branch) addresses the rally; FP Chairman Adrian Davies and Stuart Millson are to his right

The Freedom Party's meeting at the end of November brought together a wide range of people and organisations, and succeeded in generating a strong debate on many issues. The topics covered included: local government and public services; the need to restore our “quality of life” as a society; multiculturalism and nationhood; the countryside and greenbelt; and Europe and the nation-state.

Among the guest speakers were Mike Smith, the Chairman of the Conservative Democratic Alliance, *Right Now!* editor, Derek Turner, and Sam Swerling, a former Chairman of the Monday Club. To much applause, Mike and Sam discussed the failure of the Tory Party, both as an opposition and as a vehicle for conservatism.

Mike informed the audience that a plan was underway to challenge some of the leading “socially liberal” Tories – especially those with slim majorities – and called upon patriots of all groups to unite for the common good of the patriotic, pro-sovereignty cause. Derek Turner (who has written for *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Times*) spoke of the need to restore the “values of our civilisation – the values now so discarded and reviled by a decadent political class which just sneers at Britain”.

Steve Edwards and Dave Ball (Chairman of the Market Harborough Branch) discussed the vacuum which has now opened up in British politics, and the clear opportunities which exist for “our democratic, mainstream party”. In a room decorated with all the flags of the United Kingdom (as well as an Australian flag) our National Chairman, Adrian Davies, concluded proceedings by calling for all patriots to enlist in the Freedom Party – “a party which has democracy and integrity at its heart”. Adrian continued: “In a town so deeply associated with the legacy of Enoch Powell, it is right that the Freedom Party should call for a renewal of British identity. Nationality depends on kinship and a sense of ancestral domain, and that is what we are fighting for.”

Amendments to the constitution, which make for a more democratic organisation (yet preserving internal continuity and strength), were enthusiastically approved. A raffle and appeal for funds succeeded in raising a healthy sum for the party. Details of future local and national meetings will appear in due course, and we wish to thank everyone who joined us in Wolverhampton for their attendance, support and generosity.

■ Readers interested in the work of the Conservative Democratic Alliance should contact Mike Smith at BCM Box 9045, London WC1N 3XX. *Right Now!* magazine can be obtained from PO Box 361, 78 Marylebone High Street, London W1U 5AP.

I AM NOT SURE whether, in the future, events such as these will need to be licensed by the Ministry of Truth, or whether the application will have to go through the appropriate European Union authority. But for now, let us at least give thanks that we can still meet in relative freedom, and express our opinions.

Tonight, I would like to talk about how our traditional liberties are being eroded – by a Government fixated on the rights, not of our own citizens, but of those of Iraq or Sierra Leone; a Government which cares nothing for our constitution and the failing health of our faltering democracy. And make no mistake, ladies and gentlemen: we are also being betrayed by a so-called Opposition, dedicated to such important things as “NHS patients’ passports”, the cones hotline, and the wearing of fancy dress. I refer here to the previous Tory Party Chairman’s belief in the importance of leopard-skin shoes, and Oliver Letwin’s apparent conviction that community problems can be solved by grinning like Tony Blair, or appearing like an extra from *Carry On Up the Khyber*.

But seriously... Increasingly, our society is losing its free speech and freedoms. The Government wishes us all to be stamped and barcoded; with a centralised records office holding our personal details and even our DNA. Our movements, from the cradle to the grave, will be monitored by the brave, new Welfare/Surveillance state which our paranoid and regulation-minded rulers have designed for us. With crime at an all-time high, and illegal immigration rushing like flood water around the desks of the Department of Paper Shuffling (otherwise known as the Home Office), one wonders if the right identity cards will be sent to the right people, or even whether the Government can hope to tackle the insurmountable problems it has helped to create.

I doubt if a glorified bus pass (with a National Insurance number on it) will help! Instead, it will merely allow the Government to keep tabs on the rest of us – the uncomplaining, easily-pushed-around majority. I have yet to read J.G. Ballard’s novel about a violent middle-class revolution of the near-future, but perhaps we may all find ourselves sucked into it instead.

The European Union, once described by Christopher Booker as “the most insane system of government ever devised”, stands like a backdrop to this liberty-destroying process. Like the fiery mountains of Mordor casting an ever-growing darkness and shadow across the land, the EU stands poised to crush freedom, and national and individual dignity. Nations and parliaments will dissolve – EU-appointed, regional rubber-stamping bodies will take their place. Race commissars, equality commissars, human rights commissars, Europol – plus every busybody who is able to hold a clipboard, will be out to make us good, obedient Euro-citizens. Political parties (soon to be funded and no

NEW TOTALITARIANISM ATTACKED BY *FREEDOM NEWS* EDITOR

Here is the text of a speech delivered by the editor of the Freedom Party newspaper in London last October. The speech was addressed to the Society of Individual Freedom – a pressure group which supports the traditional freedoms and liberties of the British citizen.

doubt approved by the state) will have to satisfy the EU’s “anti-xenophobia” requirement. If you are a Euro-sceptic party, prepare to go to the EU gulag.

Already, your freedom to grow food, to fish the sea, to run your butcher’s shop, to run your vegetable stall is curtailed by order of the EU. Catch a species of fish which is not on your quota approval form, and you will be fined and put out of business. Sell someone a pound of this, or a pound of that, and you will find yourself plunged into a nightmare of litigation, prosecution and pedantic, nasty, robotic officialdom. Few in politics will be able to help you. After all, the three “main” parties all believe that our place is within the corrupt, obsessive, neurotic and self-important European Union, with opponents of the EU derided as if they were lunatics – a truly dangerous development.

We should certainly not mock the idea of “thought crimes” – or of a free people suddenly being subjected to a frightening *Nineteen Eighty-Four* scenario. Ten years ago, I wrote a piece for the much-respected quarterly magazine, *This England* – an article which criticised the idea of a multicultural society being imposed upon the ancient English nation. I sought to warn readers that unless something could be done to halt this process, our country would cease to be recognisable. Agree or disagree with my argument, I hope we all believe that I have the right to express it. I returned to this theme in other editions, but I greatly upset the *Guardian* writer and self-appointed cultural historian, Patrick Wright.

In one Saturday edition of the freedom-loving *Grauniad*, Mr. Wright informed his readers that the leftist *Searchlight* magazine had tried to apply pressure upon W.H. Smith – one

of *This England’s* distributors – to remove the magazine from its shelves. And because I had written on the issue of multi-culturalism and immigration – something which I believe should be debated by all, whatever their ethnic background – Wright stated: “...we can only ask why the DPP has not taken action.” Could anything be more indicative of how traditional British freedoms are being replaced by ideological decrees and witch-hunts. A mirror image of the totalitarianism he claims to oppose, Mr. Wright’s position is truly worrying.

But it’s not just the “big things” – such as the EU, or Mr. Wright’s belief that people who disagree with him should be locked up. Recently, walking through the countryside near my home (or at least, the segment of the countryside not yet turned into a superstore by John Prescott) I found myself in a favourite quiet lane. Along the verge and by the hedgerows – horror of horrors – were signs, erected by the local authority, which said: “QUIET LANE”! I wondered if I would come across a noticeboard telling me that I was walking beneath a tree, or whether a council-approved vending machine or cashpoint had been placed in the ragstone wall – for the “convenience of the citizen”.

It is difficult to remain composed when discussing “local authorities”! Once a symbol of municipal pride, quietly getting on (no doubt in a “quiet lane”!) with day-to-day duties, “the council” as it then was, has become a mini-government. Officials – all on substantial salaries – have a policy and a department for everything. Try to ring them, to solve a problem, or to get things done, and a flat, dry voice tells you: “no, we can’t do that”, or “your call may be monitored for training purposes”. Dare to be late with

your council tax (i.e. your compulsory contribution to a commissar’s salary, or the Chief Executive’s index-linked pension) and a stern letter will come winging its way to you. Thanks, dear local authority – it’s nice to know that we, your paymasters, are so valued.

Over-regulated, grossly over-taxed, pushed about, controlled, bossed, lectured – the subjects of the Queen (herself a “citizen of the European Union” thanks to that nice Mr. Major) are in chains. If you want to escape to the countryside, you find yourself in an officially-regulated “quiet lane”, or “recreation resource”. If you want to speak to a “customer services operator” you are recorded and categorised. If you have to defend your home, family and possessions from crime, it is likely that you will find yourself in a cell – answerable to the very criminal who has attacked you. It’s nice to know that your council tax, which finances the police, is put to such good use.

There is now a sense of simmering discontent in Britain. But still we remain too passive, too easily discouraged from doing anything to change things in our “banana republic”. We put up with cancelled rail services – an estimated 15 million minutes of delayed trains each year; we put up with the ever-growing NHS waiting list – despite Mr. Blair’s famous declaration in 1997 – “we will restore the National Health Service as the pride of the nation.” We pay millions of pounds in taxes, national and local, yet still the infrastructure and appearance of the country seems run-down and tatty. Just where is our money going? No doubt it is being wisely spent, topping up the pension schemes of council officials, or helping to relieve the Kinnocks’ restaurant expenses in Brussels.

Like a spluttering engine on its last legs – in fact, like something from the nightmare that was Connex South Eastern – the public sector, and indeed large chunks of the deregulated sector, seem to be breaking down. But the ever-spinning Government remains optimistic. Surely our minds will be diverted from these serious problems by that smiling, guitar-twanging “straight kinda guy” in No. 10, or by Cherie giving us a chorus of “When I’m 64” – a sensitive touch, especially just after the suicide of Dr. David Kelly. And there’s always *Pop Idol* or Beckham’s latest haircut to remind us of the important things in life.

Ladies and gentlemen. Our forefathers fought for basic freedoms. Many lives were given so that free speech and a more or less settled society could exist on this island. Today, discord, depressions, stress – a sense that we can’t turn to anyone, and that no-one cares, exists as never before. Organisations such as the Society for Individual Freedom do a valuable job in keeping the flame of individual freedom alive. Long may your work continue.

Off the rails

NOT CONTENT with messing up the perfectly workable 192 directory enquiries system, the powers that be have decided to throw a spanner into the works of our usually excellent National Railway Enquiries service.

Currently based at Cardiff, and employing a large quota of individuals who seem quite clued-up about Britain’s railway system, this telephone service is one of the few enterprises in the country which actually delivers. But all that could change. The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) – another of these mysterious “regulatory” bodies which seem to proliferate these days – has ordered that a “review” must take place to ensure that the public receives value for money.

The pen-pushers at ATOC are now toying with the idea of transferring National Rail Enquiries to a call centre in India, as part of what they describe as “an offshore proposal”. As offshore proposals go, this is certainly pretty “offshore” it has to be said. So at some point in the future, when you are struggling to make yourself understood to someone at the end of a phone on the other side of the world, just remember – you are getting (thanks to people like ATOC) a “cheaper service” and “value for money”. And all you ever wanted to know was the time of the last train from Victoria...

TONY MARTIN ADDRESSES TRADITIONALISTS



Norfolk farmer blasts “lawless society”
Freedom Party backs a new campaign against crime

The annual dinner of the Traditional Britain Group took place on Friday 7th November at the prestigious venue of Simpson’s-in-the-Strand, London. The guest of honour was Norfolk farmer, Tony Martin – a man who has become something of a folk-hero in crime-ridden modern Britain.

Mr. Martin spoke movingly about his dreadful experiences following the fateful burglary at his farm. To loud applause he condemned the “authorities” and politicians who have allowed a situation of lawlessness to develop in this country. Many areas of urban and rural Britain are without adequate police protection, and the Freedom Party fully backs Mr. Martin’s call for a revival of a traditional, crime-free society – something we as a nation once took for granted. Inadequate sentencing, weak policing, and the scandal of victims of crime being sued by criminals are just some of the issues at the heart of new Freedom Party campaigns on law and order.

Among those attending the dinner were Freedom Party Chairman, Adrian Davies; *Right Now!* editor, Derek Turner; John Gouriet, the leading light of the anti-EU movement “Defenders of the Realm”; Conservative Democratic Alliance chief, Mike Smith, and Traditional Britain Group Chairman, Gregory Lauder-Frost.

EU plan makes Britons see red

The EU Parliament’s Transport and Regional Affairs Committee have voted by 27 votes to 22 for a plan that would see the European flag superimposed on the merchant navy’s historic red ensign.

The plan, which could affect our 500-strong fleet, has been strongly criticised by many British MEPs, the Chamber of Shipping, and even by the Government.

If the Committee ever has its way, the EU flag would appear on the masts of our last-remaining fishing vessels – a final insult to an industry brought to its knees by vicious European diktat. We urge all supporters of the Freedom Party to write to their MPs and to the Prime Minister in order to show our opposition to this further example of EU encroachment on our traditions and way of life.



Visit our
Web Site:
www.freedompartyuk.net

A DEVELOPMENT TOO FAR?

Stuart Millson looks at the many threats to our greenbelt and countryside.

NEW TOWNS, mass-development, urban sprawl, the erosion of the greenbelt, farmland sold off to housebuilders – this is Tony Blair’s legacy to the environment.

Since New Labour came to power in 1997, we have witnessed a massive shift away from planning controls and countryside preservation in favour of Barratt-type housing, major road schemes and a “blank cheque” for the suburban superstores. Yet it might be worth remembering that this merciless and unthinking process of development actually began a year earlier – under the supposedly pro-greenbelt, “middle England” Tories.

A Major mistake John Major fired the starting gun in the race to pour concrete over the greenbelt and countryside when he announced that 4 million new houses would have to be built between 1996 and 2014. The developers were already well ensconced within Whitehall and various local authorities, yet there seemed to be plenty of opportunity for local conservation groups and individuals to challenge the housebuilding juggernaut. For example, back in the 1990s there was a perfectly serious plan under consideration to link the city of Gloucester and the town of Cheltenham in one huge conurbation. Since the 1960s and 70s, Gloucester had already been gradually expanded by the building of large estates. The idea was to maintain the momentum in the direction of Regency Cheltenham.

The much-respected Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) was involved in the battle to prevent the hybrid “new city”, and the plan was eventually abandoned. Thanks to the ideals of local planning, local involve-

ment and local councils listening to serious objections, the greenbelt did at least have some chance of survival. But today, the Government is intent upon diluting these vital channels and procedures. The impending creation of regional assemblies for England (areas which, incidentally, bear a curious resemblance to an EU scheme to break us down into little local statelets) will dissolve the existing consultation procedures at a stroke. Instead, the regional bodies (so far *completely* unelected) will respond to a Whitehall “strategic plan” for housing, and will implement it accordingly. We can only wonder how the anti-conurbation protest groups in Gloucestershire would fare today.

Unthinking development In its West Midlands heartland, the Freedom Party has been active in opposing unthinking development. Naturally, most people accept the need for *some* new housing, but how much of this is a response to real, organic change and actual need? In the Wormbourne district, the social engineers have been at work, trying to push the overspill from Wolverhampton into a suburban and village environment – often with disastrous consequences.

The provision of “social housing”, once a noble ideal, has now become associated with the importation of social *problems* – with policy being fuelled by the objectives of the Social Services departments, rather than the needs and feelings of local people. And few can continue to ignore what must now be the biggest cause of the housebuilding/urbanisation process: unrestricted and unmanaged large-scale immigration into the United

Kingdom – in particular into the cities of England.

‘Punished and anonymous landscapes’ As cities become more crowded, less cohesive and more prone to social problems, so the flight from urban areas grows. People – quite understandably – want to move away from drifting gangs of youths, decaying public transport and the seemingly unstoppable crime rate, and so they make for the hard-pressed greenbelt. The cities, meanwhile, gradually become grim, run-down and totally denatured, and quite unable to regenerate themselves – the very impulse needed to attract people back. The writer and conservationist David Lovibond had the measure of it a decade or so ago when he described “the punished, anonymous landscapes of our inner cities”, and the grave threat which major demographic change posed to our remaining countryside and greenbelt.

Today, New Labour’s policy on population change, “in-migration” (i.e. the movement of people from one part of the country, or area, to another) and immigration is exposed for all to see. Mr. Blunkett seems to operate on the principle that nine people can be easily and happily squeezed into a Mini! As we all know, this does not – and can never – work. The time has come for a radical rethink of our whole approach to these issues.

Unless we can halt the process of mass-development, make our cities habitable for civilised people once again, and achieve “zero immigration” within five years, we may have to say “farewell” to the old image of England’s green and pleasant land.

News Digest

The Freedom Party’s regular round-up of national news items.

If it’s English, it must be “racist”

London cabbies have been ordered by their licensing authority to remove St. George’s flags and even Royal British Legion poppies. The reason? Such symbols might “offend” ethnic minorities. Recently, Romford Council in Essex ordered stallholders to take down Union Jacks in the popular local market. After an outcry from local people and some strong condemnation of the council from patriotic Tory MP Andrew Rosindell, the market was awash with red, white and blue – forcing the council to squirm. What also upset the sour-faced local commissars was the fact that Asian stallholders joined in with the defiant flying of the flag! Clearly our national symbols do not offend ethnic minorities – just middle-class white liberals who claim to speak on their behalf.

Brussels Broadcasting Corporation

The Euro-federalists and left-wing programme makers at the BBC must be laughing behind our backs. Here we are, the ordinary Eurosceptic people of Britain, paying a compulsory tax to finance their propaganda. Recently, the prestigious BBC Richard Dimbleby Lecture was hijacked by the Euro side. A prominent French Euro-federalist informed the audience that “we are building a political union”; that federalism and the Euro-constitution were the only way for Europe. So far, no moves have been made to invite any anti-EU spokesmen or writers to give the lecture. The BBC Charter expressly commits the Corporation to political neutrality. We may well ask why this impartiality is not being observed.

‘Get your hands off my house Gordon’

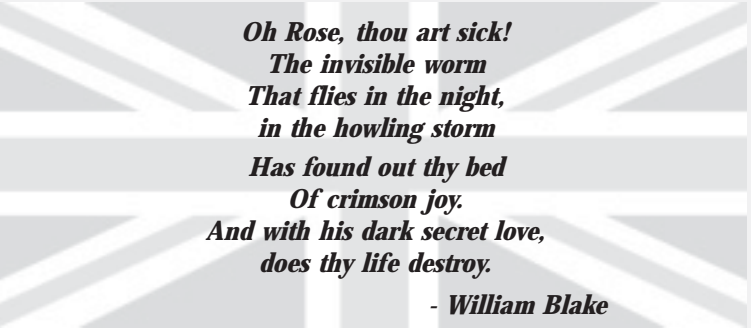
Not content with scores of stealth taxes, rumours are now flying that Gordon Brown is to tax us further on the profits we make from the sale of our houses. Raising capital gains tax to something like 40 per cent seems to be the latest scheme to deprive the nation’s earners and savers of their modest wealth – to be accompanied, no doubt, by more benefits and welfare for those who haven’t contributed a penny in their lives. As London’s *Evening Standard* columnist Allison Pearson put it on the 22nd October:

“Apart from the super-rich or senior civil servants and politicians, who seem, mysteriously, to be paid more after retirement than when they’re in work, most Britons will rely on cashing in their bricks and mortar to subsidise their kids’ college fees...and still have a bit left over for the third cheapest casket at their funeral. If Gordon takes our nest-egg away, what will become of us? If Gordon Brown thinks he can take all this away – our cushion, our running-away money, our hope of a comfortable old age – he will make the fuel protest look like a mere sparkler. The middle classes will take to their over-priced streets...”

The Freedom Party is the only party which would halt and reverse this Government’s disastrous tax and spend policy. Our belief in a genuine property-owning democracy, coupled with lower council tax rates, makes us the party of the hardworking British majority. Our policy of disengaging from the corrupt EU would automatically give Britain a spending dividend of £1 billion – a substantial saving of taxpayers’ money.

Party of the nation?

As the Tory top brass expresses its embarrassment at being British, *Peter Gibbs* offers a glimpse into the heart of a party which has cast aside its national inheritance.



ON SATURDAY 25th October, right-wing Tory MP Andrew Rosindell was speaking to Conservative Party members in Beckenham, Kent. Mr. Rosindell expressed his concern that the Union Jack was no longer displayed at Tory Party conferences, and that the patriotic songs, such as the evergreen *Land of Hope and Glory* which once concluded this event, were banned. The MP also informed his audience that the Tories’ selection process for candidates has substantially changed. Amazingly, a PPC is no longer asked for his or her opinions. Instead, they are submitted to a range of psychological tests. This probably explains a lot.

At the time of the IDS confidence vote, it seemed that the top brass were falling over themselves to appeal to *Guardian*-thinking. Not content with alienating their grassroots supporters under Duncan Smith, Michael Howard turned up the pressure in the Tory war to purge the party of its Britishness. Howard proclaimed: “I am the son of immigrants, and my Euroscepticism does not mean that we will be harking back to some bygone golden age.” Meanwhile, Euro-federalist Kenneth Clarke (known to many as “Fed Ken”) warned Michael Howard on the 30th October that the language of “Little England” (i.e. basic, honest, everyday patriotism) should be avoided at all costs in any Eurosceptic pronouncements.

Rose of England withers

All this seems so far removed from the days even of Margaret Thatcher. This newspaper has little time for the Tory Party hierarchy as it is, but we ought to remember how the party once felt. At one Conservative conference, Margaret Thatcher appeared with a red rose in her buttonhole. This was at the time when Neil Kinnock’s Labour Opposition used the rose as their campaign emblem. Before starting on the main part of her speech, the Iron Lady stated: “Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to make it clear that the red rose I am wearing is the *rose of England!*” The cheers were deafening – and many Union Jacks were waved at the end of the address. Today, the roses have all withered and died, and the flags are in the black binliners at the back of Central Office.

Even as recently as the 1980s, Tory Central Office proudly sported British flags in its grand reception area. A Union Jack was surrounded by English, Welsh, Scottish and Ulster flags – the Tories keen to stress that they were still unionist in thinking, despite having signed the Anglo-Irish Agreement! Up until the 1950s, the party had a badge which consisted of the symbolic flowers of the countries of the United Kingdom, and the title: “Conservative and Unionist Party”. Even in the days of the liberal Edward Heath, the party had a large flag on its conference platform, with Ted himself allowing more than 20 of his MPs to belong to the anti-immigration Monday Club. Just where has the spirit of patriotism gone, and what has become of the “broad church” which was once the Tory Party?

Off his trolley!

After their two catastrophic election defeats, the party embarked on a period of desperate soul-searching. Suddenly, Michael Portillo – a man who had become the high priest of Euroscepticism, invoking all sorts of SAS-related patriotic rhetoric – reappeared as a mild, socially-concerned apostle of the social services! Michael never seemed to miss out on an opportunity to push a hospital trolley, or appear as a helper to single mothers – a living embodiment you may say of the Tories’ conversion to the politics of being nice, rather than “nasty”.

Then, Duncan Smith (do you remember the “Quiet Man”?) confounded everyone by announcing on the BBC Radio 2 Jimmy Young show that he disliked the name “Tory Party” because it was too old-fashioned – possibly not fitting in with the new, vibrant party of the hospital trolley and the single mum. It was even reported that one former party Chief Executive (the Tories seem to get through one Chief Exec every six months) wanted to rebrand his forces as “The Enterprise Party”. Quite a good title, perhaps, but a bit difficult to square with the tens of thousands of small businesses which John Major wiped out in the run-up to Black Wednesday!

So where does this leave the ordinary British people, bewildered as they are by Blair’s Euro-federalism and the Tories’ embarrassment at being British? Can’t help thinking that the Freedom Party – with its proud Britannia logo, its regional English pride, real Euroscepticism, and popular British nationalism – might have an answer to that one! □

Tory MP places ‘market’ above countryside

Buckinghamshire Tory MP, John Bercow, caused eyebrows to be raised at last year’s Tory conference. The frontbench spokesman claimed that in the current debate on greenfield development and housing, market forces must prevail over the interests of the countryside. However, the fact is that the so-called “demand” for housing is often artificially stimulated by developers who are keen to buy up land at any cost. The Freedom Party believes that local planning is essential and that developers must be accountable for ensuring that their housing blends in with a district’s existing character. Sadly, Mr Bercow’s “market forces” pay little attention to quality and environmental considerations. No wonder the Tory Party is now dwindling in Middle England!

And they wonder why Britain is ravaged by crime...

Whilst British people labour on in their daily lives, with the threat and fear of crime looming almost constantly, how reassuring it is to know that the police “force” is putting its back into fighting criminals. Or is it? According to one retired policeman (D.F. Hayward of Northampton) writing in *The Times* on the 27th October:

“We should encourage the use of the term ‘police service’ rather than ‘police force’... there is also a need to remove the last vestiges of militarism from police training. Drill sessions, saluting and ceremonial parades only encourage a lack of independence of thought, and waste time that could more usefully be used in the classroom.”

Aren’t our policemen wonderful?